

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

1. (Currently Amended) A biologically pure culture of a microorganism belonging to the genus *Rhodococcus* and having the ability to degrade urethane bonds, or a mutant strain thereof, which has the ability to degrade urethane bonds, wherein the microorganism is *Rhodococcus equi* strain Accession No. DSM 16175 ~~TB-60-DMZ-16175~~.

2-8. (Cancelled)

9. (Previously Presented) The biologically pure culture according to claim 1, wherein said urethane bonds are polyurethane bonds.

10. (Canceled)